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plate and the sociology of the garbage can, about which the wayfaring man need not err, it says the obvious and conventional things. Upon questions of real importance it is useless, and, one is almost inclined to say, vicious. It is unfortunate that an attempt to treat the food problem so ill conceived and so hastily done as this found its way into print. That it has appeared with the semiofficial indorsement of the Food Administration is a grave matter. It will prevent many, who otherwise would be critical, from exposing its many sins of omission and commission. Yet this indorsement makes all the more imperative the duty of the reviewer. In time of peace a book of this character would be laughed out of court or, better still, ignored entirely by students of the problem with which it deals. In time of war it is their duty to protect the public against its conclusions.

But all of this does not mean that the volume is valueless. Far from it. Its value resides not in the prosaic domain of throwing light upon current problems but in constituting a unique and valuable intellectual phenomenon. Who knows but some day an investigating committee will be appointed by Congress whose bias is not altogether anti-intellectual. They would find in this a curious example of what happens when two men, experts upon the biology and chemistry of nutrition, but unacquainted with the nature of the industrial order, set to work to turn out a plan for the reorganization of consumption and production to the end that the industrial system can accommodate itself to the imperative demands which the war is making upon it. Perhaps they would include it as "Exhibit X" in a comprehensive report explaining why we were so tardy in getting organized for war. If such a committee is not appointed some erudite scholar of the twenty-first century will find great pleasure in exposing it as a sample of the thought of an age which pretended to deal with its problems scientifically, but was so much under the spell of the superstition that science is a panacea that it allowed formulas for meeting an emergency problem in social organization to be magically juggled out of a test tube.

WALTON H. HAMILTON

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Poverty and Social Progress. By MAURICE PARMELEE. New York: Macmillan, 1916. Pp. xv+417. \$1.75.

The purpose of this book as stated by the writer is "to give a comprehensive survey of the problems of poverty which shows the one-sided character of many of the explanations of its causation and which will at least furnish the starting-point for an effective program of prevention." The material is organized under three heads: Part I, Introduction;

Part II, "Causes and Conditions of Poverty"; and Part III, "Remedial and Preventive Measures."

The volume has a distinct value, one that will be appreciated by the general reader, as a compendium of the current literature of poverty and of the propaganda of social reform. With due recognition of this service students of social science are likely to close the book with a sense of dissatisfaction. The economic analysis, though necessarily superficial and sketchy, has an assumption of comprehensiveness and finality that can but irritate specialists in this field. The sociologists and others who had looked forward to a radically different type of analysis by the author of *The Science of Human Behavior* are disappointed. They expected a thought-provoking probe of the problems of poverty and social progress in terms of the mechanisms of conduct.

The failure of this attempt to make a significant contribution to applied sociology is due in part to an apparent disinclination of the writer to examine critically his general assumptions or to make a fundamental analysis of the problems presented. The tiresomely reiterated phrase "it goes without saying" is unconscious confession of this tendency. A concrete illustration is the statement in the Preface that "while all the important causes of poverty are discussed it goes without saying that the outstanding ones are the economic factors, *since poverty is primarily an economic condition*" (reviewer's italics). This statement is undoubtedly only a curious lapse of logic and not sophistic juggling with facts.

In his admirable enthusiasm for the future of the humanitarian movement the writer overlooks its possible inconsistencies with democratic ideals which he also approves. So insurgent a concept as the author's personal definition of normal life as "the spontaneous expression of human nature" is reserved for intuitive declaration on a concluding page. The establishment of this generalization is a thesis in itself.

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The Human Side of Business. By FREDERICK PEIRCE. Philadelphia: Frederick Peirce & Co., 1917. Pp. 214.

The Human Side of Business might well be characterized as an informal chat by an authority in the field of bond salesmanship. With but little introduction Mr. Peirce takes the reader into his confidence and in simple direct English tells an unvarnished and stimulating tale of his experience and observations as an executive in a large bond house.

It is difficult to understand why the book was given the title *The Human Side of Business*. In itself the title does not speak the truth;